



RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF REGENTS SEEKS HIGHLY QUALIFIED LEADER TO SERVE AS COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

REGENTS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FROM PROVEN LEADERS

Deadline for applying is January 30, 2009

Compensation for the position will be in the range of \$200,000 plus an excellent comprehensive benefits package. The final salary for the successful candidate will be based upon experience, qualifications, and Board of Regents' criteria. For further information contact:

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THE RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF REGENTS SEEKS A COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION WHO...

- Has successfully met the challenges of leading a complex organization dedicated to ambitious goals, high standards, and continuous improvement. This includes, but is not limited to, a school system, state department of education, nonprofit and/or corporation.
- Has the ability to articulate a clear vision for an exemplary public education system and a demonstrated commitment to producing measurable results raising student achievement for a diverse population.
- Is able to assess and challenge the status quo and to utilize and integrate available resources including technology as part of the process. Has the ability to make an immediate impact.
- Is committed to a student-first philosophy. Has the ability and skills to recognize the needs of all students and serve as their advocate.
- Has an ability to inspire, motivate, and build support among high-impact decision makers including but not limited to legislative, business, labor, community, and school leaders.
- Possesses the intellect, communication skills, and scope of expertise to utilize data and stakeholder input in the decision making process. Has the stature to serve as an advocate and spokesperson for the educational community.
- Has an understanding of the complexities of educational systems, including, but not limited to, the particular challenges faced by urban communities.
- Has demonstrated an ability to build upon and strengthen effective initiatives, as well as lead the development and implementation of new ones.

Applicant should hold an advanced degree in education, public administration, or related leadership field.



ROLE OF THE COMMISSIONER

The Commissioner of Education is the executive officer of the Board of Regents and the chief administrative officer of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE). The Commissioner sets statewide education policy, including academic standards, accountability measures, certification of educators, and accreditation and oversight of all public schools. The Commissioner has broad regulatory authority, including the ability to intervene and recommend corrective actions in schools or districts. The Commissioner oversees a \$1.1-billion budget and is chief liaison to the Governor, legislative leadership, and state and federal agencies.

RHODE ISLAND SCHOOLS AT A GLANCE

Local School Districts.....	36
Schools.....	314
Teachers.....	13,412
Total Students.....	148,474
African American	8.8%
Asian	3.1%
Hispanic	18.0%
Native American.....	0.7%
White.....	69.4%

33.0% of all students are eligible for subsidized lunch programs

18.5% of all students receive special education services

29% attend 114 urban schools in 6 districts

- **68% of urban students are eligible for subsidized lunch programs.**
- **13% of urban students are English Language Learners.**
- **The 4-year graduation rate in urban schools is 56%.**

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

WWW.RIDE.RI.GOV

The Board of Regents and RIDE provide leadership and support for the entire elementary and secondary education system in Rhode Island.

Opportunities: Rhode Island is building the foundation for success.

- As part of a multi-state effort, RIDE has implemented grade-level/grade span expectations and assessments for core subjects.
- The Regents have approved a new diploma system with strong proficiency-based graduation requirements.
- RIDE has developed a comprehensive education-information system.
- The commissioner has broad statutory authority to address districts in need through strong progressive support and intervention legislation.
- Community, administrative, and legislative leaders are committed to education reform and collaborate through groups such as the Urban Education Task Force.
- RIDE has built a strong partnership with the state's institutions of higher education.
- Rhode Island ranks 4th-highest nationally in per-pupil spending.



Challenges: Test scores continue to improve statewide, but they lag behind neighboring states - especially in the core urban districts.

- Only 41% of urban eighth graders achieved proficiency in reading, compared with 72% in the remainder of the state.
- Only 28% of urban eighth graders achieved proficiency in math, compared with 58% in the remainder of the state.



Thanks to Rhode Island's small size, managing meaningful progress and reform will position the state as a national model.

LIVING IN RHODE ISLAND

- One of the highest concentrations of institutions of higher education in the world, including: Brown University, Rhode Island School of Design, Johnson & Wales University, and the University of Rhode Island
- Nearly 50 miles of pristine coastline along Narragansett Bay, offering some of the best boating, beaches, and marine activity in the country
- Providence, our capital city, recognized nationally as a center for arts, culture and dining
- Rich in history with cultural and ethnic diversity
- Well educated workers; good technological and transportation infrastructure
- Affordable housing in a variety of settings: coastal, urban, and rural
- Ideally located in the Northeast corridor 45 minutes south of Boston and three hours north of New York

